

The Cominform-Tito Rift--A Difficulty in Human Relations

By LOUIS ADAMIC

(In a slightly abbreviated form, this article appeared in the July 10, 1948 New York Star. Mr. Adamic's further comments on the subject will be in the next issue of his personal paper Trends & Tides (T&T), now in preparation.)

The Cominform-Tito rift has given rise to diverse speculations and explanations. Some are attempts to spin complex theories linking the split to all the crucial questions in today's world.

The truth about the rift is remote from most of the sensational dispatches, editorials, cartoons and "analyses" I have seen in American, Canadian and British prints the last twelve days.

The anti-Reds are gleeful. Ah, a crack in the Iron Curtain! Puppet Tito (who, it seems now, wasn't a puppet at all) defies his Kremlin masters (who, it suddenly appears, weren't his masters after all). Nationalist Tito leaps on the ramparts to defend Yugoslav independence. Ambitious Tito puts himself at the head of an East-European uprising against Stalin. Hard-up Tito is flirting with the ERP. Etc., etc. And this sensationalism enters into calculations of how the "cold war" high command can best take advantage of the rift.

The leaders and the press of most communist parities over the world, including the Communist Party of the United States, are working overtime trying to uncover the exact nature of Tito's errors and deviations. The same writers who for five years regarded the Communist leaders of Yugoslavia as among the most terrific communists under the sun now strain to show that these Yugoslavs have strayed from the "line" and turned heretics, breaking the unity of the Communist theory and movement. In their ignorance and zeal, they are reaching into that well-known arsenal of mis-information, the "capitalist" press, for ammunition to help finish off Tito.

The unique Rebecca West and the Kravchenko-like "experts" on international Communism and Yugoslavia have the most exciting story. The rift is not genuine but part of a scenario concocted by Stalin and Tito to fool and bewilder the West. The next scene will be the Soviet Army rolling over the Balkans, which will bring Western Civilization—notably its chief bastion, Turkey—within an inch of its doom.

Stuff and nonsense—all of it. Never before or since the rift, have the Yugoslavs made a statement or published an article containing so much as a suggestion that they entertain the faintest aspiration to be independent of the USSR, in the sense that "independence" is meant by unpriced minds in England and America when they think they are thinking of the problem of small nations in the contemporary world, riven by great-power politics.

Never, before or since the rift, have the Yugoslavs hinted with a single word that they are not, or someday might not wish to remain, in the Soviet orbit. Some press dispatches and editorials to the contrary notwithstanding, the central point of the Yugoslavs' wartime and postwar thinking about their state was—and is now—that the existence of the USSR is for them the best guarantee of the

maximum independence any small people can have in today's world.

The rift has brought on no perceptible drop in the Yugoslavs' open resentment of the United States, more precisely of "Wall Street," as the base of world reaction which is spearheading imperialism and the drive toward World War III. Even a slight knowledge of the character and propulsions of New Yugoslavia should serve as a light for seeing that no power on earth, material or ideological, could push her present leaders and the people into an active conflict against the Soviets.

Then, what is the rift about? On the one side, bad manners which go with the idea on the part of some Soviet and/or Cominform leaders that Yugoslavia ought to do so-and-so and thus-and-thus; on the other side, resentment of such manners, even when they are excusable in the light of the fear of World War III which motivated some Soviet leaders' frantic determination to see the Soviet orbit readied for it as quickly as possible. That resentment springs up in Yugoslavs even when they agree that so-and-so and thus-and-thus are good ideas.

Years ago a former Cleveland industrial laborer named Andy, an old immigrant from Yugoslavia, worked on my farm in the Delaware Valley. When one day lightning ripped part of a branch off a tree, and I asked him to saw the rest of it, Andy said quickly, almost matter-of-factly: "I'll get the hatchet and chop it off."

I still think the saw was the better tool for the purpose; but, perhaps because storms usually relax me if I happen to be tense, from overwork, I didn't insist on it. A typical Yugoslav with ideas and ways of his own, Andy was deeply independent but usually ready to go along with you on a basis of cooperation and mutual respect. Since I suggested the saw, it meant much to him to use the hatchet; and he hacked off the broken limb in his own good time. Ultimately it made no difference; the tree looked just as well as if he had used the saw and had attended to it immediately.

If in over-haste, or when in a bad mood, I bluntly ordered Andy to do something, the chances were that he either didn't do it at all or did it poorly.

Had Andrei Zhdanov known Andy, it might not have come to a rift at all. But, remembering Andy, I can also imagine that Yugoslavs, with their unique characteristics, can be exasper-

ENAKOPRAVNOST
6231 St. Clair Ave.
Henderson 5311-12

ENGLISH SECTION

JULY 16, 1948

VACATIONING

Greetings from Colorado arrived this week from Marie Orazem, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Zakrajsek and son Norbert. Marie is proprietress of the Orazem Confectionery located in the Slovene National Home Bldg. on St. Clair Avenue.

From Florida come best wishes, sent by Mr. and Mrs. Vincent and Regina Beno and Mrs. Agnes Lovelock. Mrs. Beno and Mrs. Lovelock are sisters. Mr. and Mrs. Lovelock, now living in Florida, are former residents of Euclid, Ohio.

Mrs. Jennie Golic and daughter Millie of 19602 Shawnee Avenue, are vacationing in Hudson, Wyoming, at the home of Mrs. Golic's brother John Majdic. This is their first reunion in 37 years. Mrs. Golic and daughter will also visit Yellowstone Park.

Mr. and Mrs. Anton and Angela Pasler of Milwaukee, Wis., were in Cleveland for several days.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Jakopin, 736 E. 232 Street, and Mrs. Anna Jurjek-Hocevar of East 236 Street, are vacationing in Pennsylvania.

IN HOSPITAL

Mrs. Josephine Vogel, wife of John Vogel, 1011 East 64th St., is confined to Charity Hospital. Friends may visit her.

ating to Soviet leaders responsible for their country's security, which hinges in part on Yugoslavia and the rest of Eastern Europe.

In a two World situation, there is no doubt what side Yugoslavia is now, nor on what side Yugoslavia will remain. The crisis between the Cominform and the Yugoslavs is not political, but a difficulty in human relations. Perhaps both sides are more or less at fault; in its essence, though, the whole rumpus is very human, natural, inevitable; and, from the angle of the Soviet orbit, it may be all to the good in the long run. Its resolution lies in both sides admitting mistakes in behavior or otherwise, in apologies and compromise.

Again: there is no doubt what side Yugoslavia is on, in peace or war; but I think that Tito hopes to impress this on his Soviet friends—that if Yugoslavia does things in her own way in an atmosphere of good manners and mutual respect, she will be a bigger asset in the next war, if "Wall Street" insists on starting it, than if she is brusquely told how and when to do them; that, in fact, she will be worthless if they, in their fear of war, fail to respect Yugoslavs' sensibilities and try to impel her into drastic measures like land collectivization before the people and the state apparatus are ready for them.

The present Yugoslav leaders know their people. Since 1941 they and the people have been through a great experience together; there is a bond between them; and the leaders feel they know better than anyone else can know what is necessary and possible in Yugoslavia. Yugoslavs do well in war only in a clean-cut struggle for freedom; in peacetime, only as a free people in their own tempo—and you must leave it to them what "freedom" means in their dictionary.

LODGE NO. 53 SNPJ SPONSORS OF PICNIC

Where are you going this Sunday, July 18th? Did you know that Lodge "V Boj" No. 53, SNPJ, is sponsoring a picnic at the SNPJ Farm on Heath and Chardon Roads? There will be dancing, refreshments, etc. Music will be provided by Frank Barbic's Trio, who will be at the bandstand from 3 p. m. on. For enjoyment, meet your friends at the SNPJ Farm this Sunday. If you are not driving out, a bus will leave from the Slovene Workmen's Home on Waterloo Road at 2 p. m. sharp. It will leave the Farm at 8 p. m.

PICNIC IN CANTON, OHIO

A cordial invitation is extended to everyone, by the Unity Club and the Slovene Women's Club of Canton, Ohio, who are sponsors of a picnic to be held this Sunday, July 18th, at the New York Gardens, Kimball Rd. S. E., in Canton.

Music will be provided by the Polkateers from Cleveland. Admission is only 50c. The entertainment committee has guaranteed a grand time for all.

"MISS CEDAR POINT" WINNER

Sue Mahan, 22, Daytona Beach, Fla., professional fashion and photographic model, was

the winner of the week in the second contest for the selection of "Miss Cedar Point" in an event held at the park over the past weekend. Yes, she really swims, but she likes to roller skate and go deep sea fishing, too.

Next two weekly contests are scheduled for July 16th and 23rd. Single girls, 18 to 28, are eligible to enter. Blanks may be had at Breakers Hotel or General Offices, Cedar Point.

Euclid Vet's Club News Bits

By Ivan P. Kotorac

Our second annual festival is well on the way, and only two weeks away! Because of the amount of work remaining to be done, the club will hold a meeting every Monday night, therefore, every member should attend.

Frank Krashoc requested that all members turn in their tickets no later than July 24th. The 1949 Ford to be given away has already been delivered to the club and will be on display shortly.

Another important feature of the Festival will be an amateur show which will be held on Sunday afternoon.

Miss Euclid of 1947—Miss Janet Schulmeister, will be crowned "Queen of the Festival," on the opening night of the affair.

Ten beauty queen contestants are expected to enter this year's contest and we can assure you it's going to be a close race. The Beauty Queen Contest will be televised.

Fluorescent balloons will be

MEETINGS TONIGHT

Lodge Washington, No. 32 ZSZ Members of Lodge Washington, No. 32 ZSZ, are requested to attend a meeting this evening at 8 o'clock in the Slovene Workmen's Home on Waterloo Rd.

23rd Ward Prog. Club

The 23rd Ward Prog. Club and the South Slavs for Wallace will have a meeting tonight at 8:00 p. m. in Room No. 1 of the Slovene National Home, St. Clair Avenue.

Progressive Slovene Women

A joint meeting of the old and new members of the Supreme Board of the Progressive Slovene Women will be held this evening at 8:00 p. m. in the Slovene Workmen's Home on Waterloo Road.

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph and Mary Trebec, 1255 East 61 Street have announced the engagement of their daughter Dorothy M., to Mr. Harry Gray, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gray, 403 East 152 Street. The wedding will take place on Wednesday, August 4th. Congratulations.

TOMMY REED'S BAND AT POINT

Tommy Reed, his saxophone and his entertaining, all-ex-G.I. band move into the Coliseum Dance Hall at Cedar Point next Saturday night, July 17th, to open a two-weeks engagement that holds a lot of fun for the dance fans. At least the top-notch critics say: "The fellas and gals certainly have something to work on now."

Here's what Earl Hilson said when the band did a New York City stint recently:—"Today's bravo; Tommy Reed and his band at the Edison Green Room."—Nick Kenny in the Mirror had this to say: "People are having a lot of fun dancing to the music of Tommy Reed's band; they've plenty on the ball."—Paul Jones in the Atlanta Constitution said: "Look for Reed's band to hit the big time very soon."

INTER-FRATERNAL SPORTS LEAGUE OF CLEVELAND, OHIO

On April 14th, a committee representing Slovene National Benefit Society (SNPJ), American Fraternal Union (AFU), Croatian Fraternal Union (CFU), Grand Carniolian Slovenian Catholic Union (KSKJ), Slovene Mutual Benefit Association (SDZ), met for the purpose of organizing the Inter-Fraternal Sports League. Numerous suggestions were presented during the course of discussion with the result that the first activity to be sponsored by the committee would be an All-Star Men's and Women's Bowling League for the 1948-49 season.

At the following meeting held on April 28, it was decided that meetings would be temporarily suspended until contracts were secured for both leagues. Now that these agreements have been signed, the task of contacting and organizing of the bowlers and teams is at hand.

Twelve alleys have been obtained for the Women's League on Monday nights at 9:30 p. m. on the Chester-30th Lanes and the Men's League will bowl on Tuesday nights at 9:30 p. m. also at the Chester-30th Lanes. The Men's League has been tentatively set at 900 scratch and the Women's League at 700 until we are able to contact the various organizations represented for more detailed information on prevailing averages.

This league is strictly a fraternal league and no other advertising or backing will be permissible but that of the fraternal organizations and lodges represented by the bowlers. A team may be comprised of bowlers from the same lodge of a fraternal group or several lodges may merge bowlers to complete a team providing the team as a whole are members of one particular organization.

If your lodge has a team or members who are interested in bowling in these two leagues

you may contact the following representatives:

SNPJ
Agnes C. Jeric
8823 Empire Avenue
EXpress 4797—MULberry 9020

AFU
Eugene March
716 E. 160 Street
POTomac 1462

KSKJ
Frank Znidar
1506 Holmes Avenue
POTomac 6362

SDZ
Luke Hocesvar
5715 Prosser Avenue
ENdicott 5420

CFU
Dr. Matthew R. Beljan
6411 St. Clair Avenue
EXpress 4818

The next meeting of the Inter-Fraternal Sports League will be held on Wednesday, August 4th, at 8:00 p. m. in the old building of Slovene Home on St. Clair Avenue. All members and visitors are welcome to attend.

Inter-Fraternal Sports League
—Agnes C. Jeric, Chairman

MAX'S AUTO BODY SHOP
1109 E. 61st ST. — UTah 1-3040
Max Zelodec, Prop.
SPECIALIZING IN REPAIRING OF WRECKED AUTOS
Painting—Color Matching
Body and Fender Repairing on All Types of Autos

VISIT NEW TINO MODIC'S CAFE
6030 St. Clair Ave.
EN. 9691
You Are Always Welcome

B. J. RADIO SERVICE
1363 E. 45 St. — HE 3028
SOUND SYSTEM
INDOOR—OUTDOOR
Expert Repairing on all Makes of Radios
Tubes, Radios, Rec. Players
All Work Guaranteed

Charles & Olga Slapnik
FLORISTS
Beautiful Bouquets, Corsages, Wreaths
Potted Plants and Flowers for all Occasions
6026 ST. CLAIR AVE.
EX. 2134

TONY FERFOLIA
MEN'S WEAR
DRESS SUIT RENTAL
WHITE DINNER JACKETS
3517 E. 93 St., VU 3-5775

BEROS STUDIO
FOR FINE PHOTOGRAPHS
6116 St. Clair Ave. EN 0670

JUST RECEIVED . . .
LATEST RECORDS

Continental 1219—PLAYFUL BOYS—Polka ORPHAN—Waltz
Frankie Yankovic and Orchestra

Victor 25-1115—JUKE BOX—Polka CAROUSEL—Waltz
Johnny Vadnal and Orchestra

Continental 421—JOLLY TIME—Polka NARROW PATHS—Waltz
Jos. Kusar and Orchestra

We accept orders by mail and ship anywhere.

Come in and see our fine line of electrical appliances on display in our enlarged quarters.

Open every night until 9 p. m. except Wednesdays.

THE MELODY MART

12323 ST. CLAIR AVE. GLenville 1158

UTOPIANS' SOCIAL

HELD AT SNPJ FARM
Heath and Chardon Rd.

SATURDAY, JULY 17th, 1948
Music by Pintar's Orchestra